

### **REMARKS**

Claims 17 and 23 are amended, claims 1-16, 20-22, and 26-33 are canceled, and no new claims are added; as a result, claims 17-19 and 23-25 are now pending in this application.

No new subject matter has been added through the amendments to claims 17 and 23. Claims 17 and 23 have been amended merely to correct typographical errors, and to incorporate subject matter from previously pending dependent claims.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 31 and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 31 previously depended from independent claim 17. The allowable subject matter of claim 31 has now been incorporated into independent claim 17. Therefore, independent claim 17, as now amended, is allowable.

Claims 33 previously depended from independent claim 23. The allowable subject matter of claim 33 has now been incorporated into independent claim 23. Therefore, independent claim 33, as now amended, is allowable.

Claims 18-29 and 24-25 depend from one of independent claim 17 and 23, and thus are also allowable.

#### **Objections to the Claims**

Claims 17 and 23 were objected to for informalities. Applicants believe the amendments to claims 17 and 23 overcome these objections, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of claims 17 and 23.

#### **§102 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 17-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lai et al. (U.S. 5,833,483).

Claims 20-22 are canceled, so the rejection of claims 20-22 is moot.

As noted above, independent claim 17 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 31. Therefore, independent claim 17, and claims 18-19 that depend from independent claim 31, are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 17-19.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 23-25 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai et al. (U.S. 5,833,483).

Claim 32 is canceled, so the rejection of claim 32 is moot.

As noted above, independent claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 33. Therefore, independent claim 23, and claims 24-25 that depend from independent claim 23, are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 23-25.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicants may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicants' silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicants reserve all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicants do not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicants timely object to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserve all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicants reserve all

rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-371-2132) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

TIM A. RENFRO ET AL.

By their Representatives,  
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.  
P.O. Box 2938  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
612-371-2132

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By Robert B. Madden  
Robert B. Madden  
Reg. No. 57,521

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 23rd day of August 2007.

Amy moriarty  
Name

[Signature]  
Signature